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November 13, 2019

Dr. Mitchell Zais
Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Deputy Secretary Zais:

This letter is to inform the U.S. Department of Education (US ED) that South Dakota will delay its submission of one of the core performance indicators for secondary-level career and technical education concentrators, as required by the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act of 2018 (Perkins V). Section 113(b)(2)(A)(ii) requires states to report on the baseline performance and four-year trajectories for proficiency in science. For the reason outlined below, South Dakota will provide this information to U.S. ED in March 2021.

The South Dakota Board of Education Standards, through the South Dakota Department of Education (SD DOE) will submit its plan under Perkins V by the April 15, 2020, deadline.

However, at that time, South Dakota will be in the midst of a statewide field test of its science assessment required by section 1111(b)(2) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Cut scores will be set in summer 2020, and SD DOE will include this information on its accountability report card and submit science data to Ed Facts, both in accordance with ESSA-established deadlines.

As a result of the above timeframe, however, SD DOE will be unable to submit a science proficiency baseline and the four-year trajectory, as required by the Perkins V accountability measure "2S3," together with the state's Perkins V state plan in April 2020.

SD DOE will submit a revision to its Perkins V state plan in March 2021 with 2S3 data: Academic Proficiency in Science. This will allow SD DOE sufficient time to set its baseline and trajectories and conduct the required public comment period. This time frame will also allow SD DOE to submit to US ED Perkins V accountability performance data in December 2021, on schedule for the first submission of the Consolidated Annual Report data under Perkins V.

Thank you for your consideration. Should you or your colleagues have questions pursuant to this letter, please contact my CTE Director, Laura Scheibe, at 605-773-3423.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Benjamin F. Jones".

Benjamin F. Jones, Ph.D.
Secretary